

INTERIOR OF THE WALHALLA, RATISBON.

HERR VON KLENSE, ARCHTCT.

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Of the exterior of this noted edifice our readers have already had descriptions. The building was twelve years (from 1830 to 1842) in course of construction. It stands, with its rising flights of steps and terraces, on the top of an eminence on the north bank of the Danube, and is familiar to all who have passed through the pleasant country in which it is situated.

We now give an engraving of the interior of the temple from a view by M. von Klenze, the architect. It is a single hall, 150 feet in length and 57 in breadth, besides a space of 25 feet in length at its north or farthest extremity, like the opisthodomos of ancient temples, separated by a screen of Ionic columns, of which order, too, are the antæ at the angles of massive

piers, dividing the hall into three great compartments. The roof has no ceiling, but displays, by its inclined sides, in connection with horizontal beams crossing from pier to pier, a succession of internal pediments with faces divided into panels filled in with arabesques and figures in white and gold, relieved in part with colours. The roof-interior is lined almost entirely with gilt bronze plates, gold stars, and other decorations on an azure ground in its coffer. There is an opening over each compartment filled in with sheets of plate glass framed in bronze, through which an abundance of light is admitted.

The floor is inlaid with coloured marbles from Tegersee, laid out in three grand divisions. The shafts of the antæ and columns are of marble of a brownish red colour, and their capitals and bases of white marble picked out with gilding and colours: the walls are

somewhat like the columns. The frieze represents on a broad white marble ground the progress of civilisation in Germany.

The principal Ionic order is about 28 feet in height, besides which there is a second order of caryatides, 17½ feet in height, representative of female Scandinavian genii, the well-comers of souls to the halls of Odin and the Walhalla, or the regions of bliss. The figures stand upon the piers, detached from the wall, and thus avoid heaviness in the upper portion of the interior: there are six on each side, and two over the penetralia or inner hall. These caryatides are of marble, slightly polychromed in natural colours. They bear voluted capitals on their heads.

The interior is devoted to the reception of rows of busts of illustrious persons with other sculptures, marble candelabra, and seats.